Veterinary Scholar Summer Program

Program Application Information

Application Deadline

February 5, 2016 at 2:00 pm. Note: Applicants for the Morris Animal Foundation Fellowship must submit applications by January 20, 2016 (early deadline) for consideration. Applicants not selected for MAF will be considered for other available slots. Apply here.

Eligibility

Interested 1st-2nd year veterinary students from any accredited veterinary college in the United States or Canada are encouraged to apply.

- Students must have completed at least one year of the Veterinary Curriculum by May of the program year
- Veterinary School must be AVMA accredited and located in the US or Canada
- Trainees must be in good academic standing
- International students are not eligible to receive awards (Pre-approved Merial International students are the only exception)
- NIH Trainees must U.S. citizens, non-citizen U.S. nationals, or those lawfully admitted for permanent residence.

Program Commitments

- Complete a 10-12 week research project during the summer term under the guidance of an approved CVMBS faculty mentor
- Complete an Institutional Responsible Conduct of Research Training Class (offered as part of program)
- Participate in program activities (weekly seminars and tours)
- Produce a final poster presenting their research findings

Students must certify that they understand this is a full time commitment (40 hours/week) over the summer and that they can devote the required time if they accept an offer.

Students selected for NIH positions must commit to a 12 week program. Students selected for other positions may select a 10, 11 or 12 week option, based on their availability. Students selected for exchange programs must commit to at least an 8 week project. Students are only paid for weeks worked (ie no vacation time or sick leave is provided).

Stipend

- $477.50/week for 10-12 weeks.
- Taxes, medicare and mandatory retirement contributions (in lieu of social security) are automatically deducted by payroll.
- Travel allowances are not provided for non-local students
- Pay dates are monthly for the weeks worked in the month
2016 Open Positions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Positions Open</th>
<th>Project Length (weeks)</th>
<th>Mentor stipend match required?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NIH</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merial</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10-12</td>
<td>Yes (25%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morris Animal Foundation*</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10-12</td>
<td>Yes (15%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exchange Programs</td>
<td>2-3</td>
<td>8-12</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The selection committee will review all applications and award positions based on application quality, eligibility and research focus. Students do not need to indicate which funding source they are applying for other than students applying for exchange programs.

2014 Open Position Details

The Merial Summer Scholars Program has been continuously funded through Merial (formerly Merck-Merial) for over a decade. Acceptable project topics can focus on any area of research and students with minimal prior research experience are preferred by the sponsor.

Projects must be 12 weeks in length and acceptable project topics will focus on research in public and human health. Students must be U.S. citizens, non-citizen U.S. nationals, or those lawfully admitted for permanent residence. Selected awardees will be required to complete an additional online NIH enrollment process.

Applications are due on January 20, 2016. The selection committee will conduct an early review and select 1 applicant to proceed to the MAF full proposal Fellowship application. We will guide applicants through the additional application process with the Foundation (Due February 3, 2016). Proposals will focus on projects of interest to MAF that comply with the Foundation’s health study policy.

CVMBS and University of Alaska, Fairbanks will provide funds for up to two students to conduct research at UAF. Funded positions will provide up to $5,000 to assist with travel and living expenses. Students who do not have pre-existing connections with faculty at University of Alaska-Fairbanks should contact Dr. Todd O’Hara after reviewing potential mentors on the UAF website. Please cc Cathy Griseto on the correspondence. If you have a preferred topic interest area, please provide that information in your inquiry, but do not contact UAF faculty directly. Only CSU DVM students in good standing are eligible to apply. Students must commit to at least an 8-week project conducted at UAF with UAF faculty.

Funding is available for one research position at the Royal Dick School of Veterinary Studies / The Roslyn Institute. Funded positions will provide stipend and up to $5,000 to assist with travel and living expenses. Students should contact Dr. Randy Basaraba to discuss possible faculty contacts. Only CSU DVM students in good standing are eligible to apply. Students must commit to at least an 8-week project conducted at RDSVS.
Required Application Components

- Complete online application questions
- 2 letters of reference emailed to Aimee.Oke@Colostate.edu (faculty should email the letters directly to Ms. Oke)
  - One reference should provide a letter attesting to your motivation, independence, reliability and other character attributes
  - The second reference should be provided by the CSU faculty mentor who has agreed to support your summer research program. This letter should contain a) a short description of the research you will undertake as part of the summer program and willingness to provide mentorship; and b) assurance that the mentor has the laboratory and financial resources to support your research

Application Content and Guidelines

- Please use 4.0 scale for GPAs (convert any GPAs using different scale)
- In College/University History, please list undergraduate school first, followed by any graduate school or other higher education opportunities. Do not list high schools or current Vet Med Program.
- For GRE scores, Verbal and Quantitative scores range from 200-800. Analytical scores range from 0-6 points. Please check that you report scores under appropriate field.

Main Application (VSSP on campus program)
Q1. How would participation in the CSU Summer Veterinary Scholar Program advance your career goals?
Q2. How would you describe your participation in basic or clinical research?
  a. Very little prior experience (please answer questions 3a and 3b)
     Q3a. What has motivated you to participate in research this summer?
     Q3b. What are your goals for participation in a research experience this summer?
  b. Some prior research experience (please answer questions 4a and 4b)
     Q4a. Describe your research experiences and what you found to be rewarding about them.
     Q4b. How would participation in CSU’s veterinary summer research program further advance your interest in research and/or career goals?
Q5. What have you done to explore summer research options and mentors who might sponsor your research this summer?

RDSVS Exchange Program Application
Q1. Describe any previous travel or work experiences and how prior experiences influenced you to apply for the RDSVS summer research programs
Q2. What if any faculty, facilities or programs offered at RDSVS summer research program would advance your interests and/or career goals?

Q3. Please describe your prior international experience or other pertinent information relating to your previous experiences, personal and professional qualifications for this program.

**UAF Exchange Program Application**

Q1. Describe any previous travel or work experiences and how prior experiences influenced you to apply for the UAF summer research programs

Q2. What have you done to explore summer research options and mentors who might sponsor your research this summer? If you have identified a mentor and project, please describe here.

Q3. Please provide any other pertinent information relating to your previous experiences, personal and professional qualifications for this program.

Applicants for the UAF program will also be able to indicate if they would like to participate in the on-campus program if not selected for the University of Alaska, Fairbanks and will need to indicate if they have found a potential CSU mentor and project.

**Application Review Information**

Overall Impact/Merit:
Reviewers will assess applications for completeness, enthusiasm for program, mentor identification, project type and mentor qualifications and support. (1-10 points)

Scored Review Criteria: Each category is worth 1-5 points
1. Student Attributes- GPA, college history, GRE
2. Participation as it relates to career goals
3. Relationship of prior research experience to motivation to participate
   Note: prior research is not required, and lack of experience will not be penalized, but students without basic or clinical research experience should articulate a rationale and motivation for application.
4. Proposed research program and mentor identification
5. Letters of support (5 points each letter)

Exchange Program (RDSVS/UAF) Criteria
1. Rationale for application to these research exchange programs
2. Prior research experience that provides confidence that the exchange will be successful
3. Prior overseas/externship experience that provides confidence that the exchange will be culturally successful
4. Evidence of investigation of research opportunities at site of choice.
Timeline

Applications and Letters of Reference Due: February 5, 2016 2 pm
NOTE: Morris Animal Foundation early due date Jan 20 as described above
Review by Selection Committee: February, 2016
Award Notices Sent: Mid-March
Hiring Paperwork: Mid-April
Program Start Date: Tuesday, May 17, 2016